



May 23, 2014

Associated with news release #037

**MEDIA INQUIRIES ONLY:**

Media relations: 916-492-3566

After hours: 916-599-1320

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Operation High End**

*Arrests of numerous individuals involved in running organized auto fraud ring*

- \$1 million auto loan and insurance fraud scheme;
- Charges were filed and arrest warrants issued for 18 individuals; 17 in Los Angeles and 1 in Fresno;
- 21 High-end vehicles fraudulently purchased and/or leased; 5 used vehicles purchased; 3 vehicles exported out of the country. Brands included Mercedes Benz, BMW, Audi and Lexus;
- 11 insurers affected by the scheme- Geico, Farmers, Safeco, Esurance, Progressive, Ameriprise, Unitrin, State Farm, Nationwide, Allstate, Wawanesa;
- 18 dealerships defrauded;
- The charges filed include:
  - o 487(d)(1) PC for the Theft of a Vehicle by False Pretenses
  - o 550 PC, Insurance Fraud
  - o 487(a) PC, Grand Theft of Money from the insurance companies for taking money to repair the vehicles, and not making the repair
  - o 118 PC Perjury, on DMV documents
  - o 115 PC False information on a government document
- Four-year investigation by the California Department of Insurance. The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) and the Fresno County DA's office provided assistance in the investigation;
- The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case;
- More than a dozen Department of Insurance detectives and investigators worked on this case and more than 100 law enforcement personnel from CDI and allied agencies executed the arrest
- Other agencies assisting the CDI Detectives with the service of the arrest warrants include: LA County-Task Force Regional Auto Theft Prevention (TRAP), Ventura County Vehicle Theft Task Force (VenCATT), Los Angeles County District Attorney Investigators, Riverside and San Bernardino District Attorney's office, and Franchise Tax Board.
- [Arrest Photos](#) are available on the California Department of Insurance [Flickr page](#) [www.flickr.com/ca\\_dept\\_insurance](http://www.flickr.com/ca_dept_insurance)
- [Additional Visual available](#)
- *This is an ongoing investigation.*

**###**